



MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Record

NOV 18 2003

FROM:

David Givens  
Director  
NOAA Office of Coastal Studies

SUBJECT:

Categorical Exclusion for Grant No. 123-456-78

NAO 216-6, Environmental Review Procedures, requires all proposed projects to be reviewed with respect to environmental consequences on the human environment. This memorandum addresses the applicability of issuing grant number 123-456-78 to Dr. T. Brown, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to conduct research activities described below.

**Description of project-**

Grant number 123-456-78 would award Dr. Brown with \$200,000 to conduct a project entitled, "The role of competitive interactions between three species of macroalgae in determining the species distribution, density, and abundance in the intertidal zone of Southeastern Massachusetts." The project involves the conduct of the following activities:

1. Transit to study site,
2. Installation of 10 transect lines and temporary markers,
3. Take water samples along transect,
4. Removal of all macroalgae species along the transect,
5. Place water and macroalgal samples in temporary storage for transport back to lab, and
6. Laboratory analysis (weight, tissue, etc.) on macroalgae and water samples.

**Effects of the project-**

The environmental effects of Dr. Brown's project will be limited to some limited trampling of intertidal species, removal of approximately 1500 kilograms of macroalgae (total), and some disruption of wildlife (e.g., crabs, birds, fish, etc.) during the placement of the transect lines. All effects will be limited to the 2000 square feet that comprises the study area. All effects will be temporary in nature. Given the growth rate of the macroalgal species being taken, the 1500 kilograms permanently removed will be replaced within 30 days through natural recruitment to the disturbed site. No other disturbances to the intertidal area are planned for the vicinity being studied during this sampling season. Therefore no cumulative effects are anticipated.

**Categorical exclusion-**

This project would not result in any changes to the human environment. As defined in Sections 5.05 and 6.03c.3(a) of NAO 216-6, this is a research project of limited size or magnitude or with only short term effects on the environment and for which any cumulative effects are negligible. As such, it is categorically excluded from the need to prepare an Environmental Assessment.

**FICTITIOUS SAMPLE  
NOT AN ACTUAL GRANT PROJECT**



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